

Shared Island Sustainability Capital Grant

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1. Overview

This document provides guidance for the **Shared Island Sustainability Capital Grant (SISCG) / Shared Island Green Investment Grant (SIGIG)** It covers eligibility criteria, application process and information required.

If you are considering applying for the SISCG, please read this document carefully and in full including all annex's carefully before submitting your application. This scheme will open on 12th February 2025 at 12 noon, and will close on 02nd May 2025 at 12:00 noon. Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland will reserve the right to close the scheme early in their respective jurisdiction at such times as it becomes apparent that the demand for support exceeds the actual budget allocation.

The SISCG is part of the Shared Island Enterprise Scheme, developed by Enterprise Ireland, Invest Northern Ireland and InterTradeIreland, in consultation with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (IE) and the Department for the Economy (NI), funded via the Government of Ireland's Shared Island Fund.

The Shared Island Enterprise Scheme is a collaborative project with strands of activity being supported and delivered by Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland and InterTradeIreland.

In developing the scheme, the agencies agreed to prioritise supporting the development and deployment of alternative green energy solutions by industrial businesses, which can deliver both commercial and environmental benefits on a Island wide basis and are consistent with the policy objectives of the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.

This is being delivered by Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI through the Shared Island Sustainability Capital Grant. For this strand of activity, €20m has been allocated in total and is being programmed on a coordinated basis by Invest Northern Ireland and Enterprise Ireland.

€10m total is available in each jurisdiction to support a minimum of 2 significant, demonstrative capital projects focused on sustainability, with relevance and benefit also on an Island wide basis. The SISCG will support eligible capital projects that demonstrate the application of sustainable technologies in industrial settings, such as:

- Heat Electrification & Thermal Storage,
- Green Gases (Hydrogen),
- Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources/ Onsite Renewable Energy generation in an industrial setting.
- Sustainable Water (in a manufacturing or industrial setting)
- Carbon Capture
- Circular Economy (in a primary manufacturing setting, not plastics recycling)

Applications will need to demonstrate benefits across the following scheme criteria: (*see Annex B)

- Alignment with relevant Northern Ireland Executive or Government of Ireland Policy for the reduction in Carbon Emissions/Increased Production of Renewable Energy or Alternative Fuels, Sustainability & Environmental Protection.
- Benefits of the project to the All-Island Economy (including social and economic)

- Innovative nature of the Capital Investment
- Economic benefits (including wider) associated with the project
- Quality of the proposal and information provided

Projects must be of demonstrative (ideally TRL level 7 - 9) value to the company, manufacturing sectors or industrial sites and should:

- address challenges in sustainability and/or environmental protection i.e projects must deliver an environmental improvement to a manufacturing site or industrial site via a commercial entity
- Projects must demonstrate value to the All-Island Economy. This can include (though is not limited to):
- **Project Collaboration North & South** - Projects where the applicant and project lead is the Invest NI/EI client but leverages consultancy/products/services etc from or otherwise demonstrates meaningful collaboration with entities in the other jurisdiction.
- **Potential benefit for North & South** - grant aided projects will be able to demonstrate information and knowledge transfer - e.g. host visits North & South, host webinars, and showcase the project on a webpage
- **“Knowledge sharing”** on an Island wide basis will be an essential component of the supported projects to aid the replication and faster market penetration of supported technologies or solutions, across both jurisdictions.
- Supported projects will be required to share knowledge on and engage in activities that facilitate scaling up to a commercial scale, accelerate deployment, and promote the commercialisation of the proposed technologies on an Island wide basis.

Emphasis will be given to the development of alternative energy (“Green”) solutions which can deliver both commercial and environmental benefits at scale, both North and South.

The SISCOG provides grant support for the purchase and installation of capital equipment that enhances environmental protection and sustainable practices in industry that benefit both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.

The SISCOG is a reimbursement grant, the applicant must incur the capital costs of the project and then submit their claim for reimbursement. When Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland confirms capital expenditure has been incurred via a claims and vouching process, the eligible grant amount will be paid to the applicant.

The aim of this funding is to encourage businesses to deliver projects of significant demonstrative value (Ideally TRL level 7 – 9) in sustainability and environmental protection. The scheme is aimed at clients of Invest NI and Enterprise Ireland operating in an industrial/manufacturing setting.

Grant support will depend on business size and turnover according to the EU SME Definition ([See here](#) & *Also Annex A & B).

The scheme aims to support a minimum of 2 significant projects (*See Annex B) in Northern Ireland and a minimum of 2 significant projects in Ireland. Projects of limited scope and demonstrative value across the scheme criteria will be rejected.

Applicants will be limited to one project, only one entity within a group structure of companies can apply for SISCG at any one time. A Letter of Offer will be issued to successful applicants, who may begin to implement the project.

2. Business Eligibility

The SISCG is open to all companies who are an Invest Northern Ireland client or Enterprise Ireland client, that meet the eligibility criteria. The SISCG is also open to companies who are eligible to become a client of Invest NI or Enterprise Ireland but have yet to do so.

Find out more about becoming an Invest Northern Ireland client company [How we support business](#) or an Enterprise Ireland client company [Become a Client](#)

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Primary Agricultural Production and Horticulture (e.g., farming and/or selling live animals, growing crops).
- Fishing and Aquaculture Production (e.g., offshore activities)
- Sporting clubs/organisations and associated company structures
- Charities
- Non private health care providers
- Education – Schools, higher and further education
- Franchises which are not autonomous enterprises as defined by Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC
- Businesses already in receipt of or intending to gain other government support for the project.
- Businesses that have an outstanding liability to Invest NI or Enterprise Ireland brought about through grant clawback proceedings. If a satisfactory repayment plan is in place, the business may apply for consideration.
- Businesses or any member of senior management within the business that are subject to a current bankruptcy order, Individual Voluntary Arrangement, Company Voluntary Arrangement, County Court Judgement, or Company Director Disqualification
- Industries or businesses which may cause Invest NI or Enterprise Ireland unacceptable reputational risk, such as gambling, tobacco products, cannabis-based products which are not authorised as medicines, adult entertainment.
- Projects based in Ireland and to be supported by Enterprise Ireland will not be accepted by companies operating in the military & defence sectors
- Government organisations and bodies and government funded bodies.
- Government part owned/supported businesses.
- Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland reserve the right at their absolute discretion to refuse to support businesses that bring Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland and Ministers in their associated Departmental Bodies into disrepute.
- Support will not be provided to undertakings in difficulty, please see Annex D
- Additional exclusions may be applied at the discretion of Invest NI or Enterprise Ireland as per each organisation's operational guidelines.

3. State Aid & Support Rates

This scheme will operate under EU General Block Exemption Regulations, articles 36 – 48. Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland will assess assistance based on the notional thresholds highlighted in these articles – Please [click here](#) to access GBER articles 36 – 48 Environmental Aid

Projects will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should determine under which article they wish to apply and for a level of funding they believe to be within the notional threshold that will allow their project to proceed.

For NI based projects please see [Annex B](#)

4. Eligible & Ineligible Project Costs

Only Capital Equipment costs will be deemed eligible for supported projects. You will be required to maintain an asset register of capital equipment

Capital equipment purchased via related parties will not be eligible for support. Capital equipment via intercompany transfers will not be eligible or support (for guidance on related parties and company size please [See here](#))

Capital Equipment to be supported must be in line with the eligible project types for this scheme such as:

- Heat Electrification & Thermal Storage,
- Green Gases (Hydrogen),
- Promotion of Energy from Renewable Sources/Onsite green energy generation in an industrial setting.
- Sustainable Water (in a manufacturing or industrial setting)
- Carbon Capture
- Circular Economy (in a primary manufacturing setting, not plastics recycling)

Ineligible costs include but are not limited to,

- land purchase,
- Building works,
- Replacing of 'old' Plant, Machinery and Equipment for 'new'
- Working Capital,
- Costs related to investments to comply with Union standards in force
- Value added tax (VAT)
- Work already commenced.
- Development, Consultancy
- Marketing,
- Travel
- Employment Costs

Neither agency will provide support to a project where the applicant cannot demonstrate an incentive effect.

If you are a business that is part of a group structure with the same ultimate ownership, you may only submit one application across the group. Only one application can be accepted per company which should be at a single manufacturing or industrial site.

For a worked example of eligible expenditure and costs leading to payment off grant in a potential offer issued scenario, please refer to [section 8](#)

5. Timeframe

The SISCG will open for applications on 12th February 2025 at 12:00 noon and will close on 02nd May at 12:00 noon. Each agency reserves the right to close the scheme to applications in their respective jurisdiction early if budget allocation appears insufficient to meet demand for support.

Each agency also reserves the right to utilise a matrix to score projects in the event that budget allocation is insufficient to meet demand.

Projects must demonstrate that they will be completed by 31st December 2027. All eligible capital costs must be incurred for and paid by 31st December 2027.

Failure to incur and pay for eligible expenditure by 31st December 2027, will result in grant awards being withheld.

Project extensions will not be possible under this scheme. Projects which cannot demonstrate they can complete by 31st December 2027 will not be eligible for support under this scheme.

Projects requiring planning permission

It will be the responsibility of the applicant to evidence how they can complete the project by 31st December 2027. Where appropriate, applicants will need to provide evidence that they have planning permission in place. Where planning permission is required but has yet to be granted, the scheme promoters hold the right to withdraw the application for support where they assess that there is an undue risk to a lack of planning delaying the project to the point where it may not complete by 31st December 2027

Projects Requiring Grid Connection

Applicants will need to provide evidence that they have an offer of grid connection in place where appropriate. The scheme promoters reserve the right to prioritise applications which do not require a connect to the grid. The scheme promoters reserve the right to withdraw applications where grid connection is required but has not yet been obtained, as this increased the risk that projects do not complete by 31st December 2027.

Projects Requiring Environmental Permits & Additional Local Government/Planning Approvals

It will be the responsibility of the applicant to evidence how they can complete the project by 31st December 2027. Where appropriate, applicants will need to provide evidence that they have additional permitting and Local Government Approvals in place. It will not be the responsibility of each approving agency to liaise with issuing authorities to assist with project

completion. The scheme promoters reserve the right to withdraw applications where applicants cannot fully showcase and demonstrate how additional approvals needed will be secured in time. Environmental Permitting includes but is not limited to Pollution Prevention Control (PPC), Abstraction/Discharge consent, Waste Management Authorisation etc.

6. How to Apply

Stage 1 - Applicants should complete the “Eligibility Checker” which will be available from 12th February 2025”. Responses will be checked initially by an Invest NI advisor or an Enterprise Ireland Advisor. A project synopsis will be required at this stage.

Stage 2 – If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will be issued with an application form by the relevant agency.

The application form includes a checklist of documents to be completed and submitted including:

- Application form Part 1 – Business Plan
- Application form Part 2 – Project Plan
- Application form Part 3 – Environmental & Sustainability Financial Data Sheet/Project Costs Sheet – Company Energy Usage Figures required at this stage.
- Projected Monthly Cash Flows to December 2027 – P&L, Balance Sheet and Cashflows – ***Complete with Assumptions**
- Signed full accounts for the previous 3 years to include P&L and Balance Sheet
- Latest in year management accounts which should be no more than 3 months old
- 3-year historical financial statements in soft copy
- Organisation Chart
- Group Structure

You should ensure you have all relevant information at hand before starting the application. You can save a draft of your application and return to update it at any time prior to submitting before the application call closure; regular saving of the application is recommended. You should review section 8 of the business plan document which forms part of the application pack. Section 8 lists the documents you will need to submit with your application. An application will not be accepted unless all associated documents are provided.

Stage 3 – Each agency reserves the right to assess applications as submitted, therefore once your application has been completed and submitted it could be put through an assessment against the eligibility criteria to ensure it meets a minimum quality threshold, with the use of a scoring matrix.

In the event of either agency implementing the right to utilise a matrix to score projects, the following criteria will be used for scoring:

1. Alignment with relevant Northern Ireland or Government of Ireland Policy for the reduction in Carbon Emissions/Increased Production of Renewable Energy or Alternative Fuels, Sustainability & Environmental Protection.
2. Benefits of the project to the All-Island Economy (including social and economic)
3. Innovative nature of the Capital Investment
4. Forecast Economic benefits (including wider) associated with the project (these will be tested during a full appraisal of the project)

5. Quality of the proposal and information provided

If during the stage 3 process it becomes apparent that there is insufficient budget to meet demand for projects, the window for submitting applications will be closed.

The above process may result in a small reserve list pending final funding decisions

Stage 4 – Projects successfully proceeding to this stage will be put through a full appraisal carried out by the relevant agency before final funding decisions are made. This will include a full Commercial/Financial appraisal and an Economic Efficiency Test by the relevant agency and also an external Technical Appraisal of the project.

Stage 5 – Offer Issued to successful project applicants

***For projects that are based in Ireland you should contact your Client Advisor as your first point of contact. You can also email [Enterprise Ireland National Contact Hub](#)**

7. Your Responsibilities

You “the applicant” are responsible for providing accurate and true information on your application.

Providing incorrect or misleading information is an offence and any such information may be used against you in any subsequent criminal investigation. The information provided on your SISCG application form may be made available to other departments or agencies for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime.

Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland and InterTradeIreland may release information relating to the participation of your business in this programme, in line with the [Invest NI Privacy Notice](#) and [Enterprise Ireland Data Protection](#), and statutory obligations under Invest NI [Freedom of Information](#) and [Enterprise Ireland Freedom of Information](#) and [InterTradeIreland Data Protection and Privacy Policy](#)

Information may be shared between Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland, InterTradeIreland, the Department for Economy and the Department for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, or other Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland for the effective management of finance and governance and in accordance with the respective statutory requirements in each jurisdiction.

The purpose of this information sharing will be for overall project monitoring, and to inform current and future policy objectives.

You are responsible for obtaining any legal consents and complying with any legal and statutory requirements for the implementation of your project.

This may include but is not limited to requirements in relation to building controls, planning permission, and landlord consents.

Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland will not accept responsibility for your failure to comply with any legal requirements relating to your project. For successful projects, Invest NI &

Enterprise Ireland may conduct a Post Project Evaluation (PPE) 12 - 18 months after project completion. This may include additional site visits to your premises, and you will be required, where applicable to provide information on equipment performance.

8. Submitting a claim for Northern Ireland Based Projects

Please note that all costs must be incurred and paid for by the business that is named on the Letter of Offer

For projects based in Northern Ireland, Once the equipment for your project has been purchased and fully installed, you must submit your grant claim to Invest NI via the [Invest NI Claim Pack](#) by the date detailed within your Letter of Offer.

Proof of Invest NI receiving this claim must be retained by the applicant. Please note that all costs must be incurred and paid for by the business that is named on the Letter of Offer.

Before any claim is paid, the newly installed equipment will be vouched by Invest NI which will include a site visit by Invest NI to inspect the equipment being claimed for has been installed. The vouching process will also require photos being taken of the equipment in place.

Worked Example of Eligible Expenditure and Grant: (the net cost capital equipment only is eligible for grant)

Item/Cost Incurred	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Eligible Cost	*Potential Grant Rate on offer	Eligible Grant
Staff Costs	£500,000		£0	45%	£0
Consultancy	£100,000	£80,000	£0	45%	£0
5 Mw Electrolyser	£10,000,000	£8,000,000	£8,000,000	45%	£3,600,000
Sub-Contracting	£500,000	£400,000	£0	45%	£0

*Indicative grant rate as an example only, rate offered will be based on appraisal and negotiation of incentive effect with company

9. Submitting a claim for Projects in Ireland

In the first instance, where you are in receipt of a letter of offer from Enterprise Ireland, you should contact your EI Client Advisor who will be able to assist. Alternatively, you can email the [Enterprise Ireland National Contact Hub](#)

10. Data Protection and Handling

The SISCG is managed and administered by Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland in partnership with InterTradeIreland. Each organisation will access the information you provide as part of your application to assess your eligibility and to conduct post scheme governance assessments.

Information will be shared between Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland, InterTradelreland, the Department for Economy and the Department for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, and Departments from Ireland and Northern Ireland for the effective management of finance and governance and in accordance with the respective statutory requirements in each jurisdiction. The purpose of the information sharing will be for overall project monitoring, and to inform current and future policy objectives.

As this financial support is sourced from public funds Invest NI, Enterprise Ireland and InterTradelreland will, in the interest of openness and transparency, proactively publish limited information on beneficiaries under the scheme including:

- name of successful applicant
- project title
- amount of assistance.

Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland will handle your data in compliance with applicable laws including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). For further details on the data handling practices please see the [Invest NI Privacy Notice](#) and [Enterprise Ireland Data Protection](#)

In the event of information being shared with InterTradelreland, your information and details will be managed in accordance with the [InterTradelreland Data Protection and Privacy Policy](#)

11. Right to Amend

Dependant on future funding availability and uptake, Invest NI & Enterprise Ireland reserves the right to amend the scheme eligibility criteria, which may include grant rates, eligible technologies and funding priorities.

12. General Enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the scheme, you can email siscq@investni.com if your project is based in Northern Ireland.

For projects based in the Ireland you can email your Client Advisor or contact the [Enterprise Ireland National Contact Hub](#)

Should you require a copy of these guidance notes or the FAQs in an alternate format, e.g. braille, then please contact equality@investni.com or [Enterprise Ireland Contact](#)

Annex A – SME Definition & State Aid Articles

European Union Notification and Business Size Definitions State Aid Notification:

For all businesses the scheme will be delivered under [EU GBER Articles 36, 38 & 41](#)

Business size definitions:

A small enterprise is defined as:

- An enterprise that has fewer than 50 employees and has either an annual turnover and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €10m.

A medium sized enterprise is defined as:

- An enterprise that has between 50 employees and 249 employees and has either an annual turnover not exceeding €50m or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43m.

A Large Enterprise will be anything else that does not fall into either the smaller or medium-sized categories.

If a company is part of a group, then the employee, turnover, annual balance sheet and ownership limits apply to the group. In all cases, if the enterprise is more than 25% owned by one or more enterprises or itself has a holding of more than 25% in any other enterprise, it will be necessary to consult the full definition in the Official Journal ([See here](#)).

Excluded from the holding company threshold in the above definition are public investment corporations, venture capital companies and institutional investors provided that they do not exercise control.

However, an enterprise cannot be considered as meeting either definition if 25% or more of the capital or voting rights are directly or indirectly controlled, jointly or individually, by one or more public bodies.

***Annex B – Expenditure, Grant Limits & [Project Scoring in Northern Ireland](#)**

In Northern Ireland, significant project costs have been defined as a minimum of €6m/£5m capital expenditure.

In Northern Ireland, the maximum grant award on a single project basis will be €7m/£6m

Grant Rates will be capped based on company size: **50% Small, 45% Medium, 30% Large** sized company. It is not envisaged that the upper cap limit per company size will be offered, and project applicants should clearly demonstrate the incentive needed to bring forward their project.

For project screening and scoring in Northern Ireland the following marking system will be utilised by Invest NI

1. Alignment with relevant Northern Ireland or Government of Ireland Policy for the reduction in Carbon Emissions/Increased Production of Renewable Energy or Alternative Fuels, Sustainability & Environmental Protection. (25 Marks)
2. Benefits of the project to the All-Island Economy (including social and economic) (25 Marks)
3. Innovative nature of the Capital Investment (20 Marks)
4. Forecast Economic benefits (including wider) associated with the project (20 Marks) (these will be tested during a full appraisal of the project)
5. Quality of the proposal and information provided (10 Marks)

Each project will need to score a minimum of 60% of the marks available in each criteria to be deemed eligible for a full appraisal.

Annex C – Appeals Process

If an applicant is unhappy with the outcome of the decision, they can seek feedback on their application. It is hoped this feedback will be taken on board and used to strengthen any future application made to any calls that may be opened.

Should an applicant still be unhappy with the outcome and want to progress further then this can be considered under each agencies Appeal Procedure. A copy can be provided on request.

Annex D – Undertakings in Difficulty

Assistance under SISCAG will not be granted to undertakings in difficulty, including:

- i. In the case of a limited liability company, where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses
- ii. In the case of a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company, where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses
- iii. Where the undertaking is subject to collective insolvency proceedings or fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors
- iv. Where the undertaking has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan
- v. Where, for the past two years: (i) the undertaking's book debt to equity ratio has been greater than 7.5; and (ii) the undertaking's EBITDA interest coverage ratio has been below 1.0. This will be assessed as part of the project and business appraisal conducted by each agency